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**PERSONNEL**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DEMOTION OF AIRMEN**



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This instruction provides guidelines and establishes policy for administrative demotion of Air National Guard (ANG) enlisted members. This instruction implements AFD 36-25, *Military Promotion and Demotion*. This instruction applies to all ANG enlisted members in the grades E-2 through E-9. This instruction is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974, and each form required by this instruction contains a Privacy Act statement incorporated into the body of the document.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

Updated references to law, instructions, and office symbols.

**Section A—General Instruction**

**1. Purpose.**

1.1. Don't use administrative demotions when it is more appropriate to take actions specified under the applicable state military code or the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), when applicable.

1.2. Do not demote airmen who have separated. An administrative demotion action cannot be initiated unless the reason for the action occurred during the current enlistment (including extensions).

**EXCEPTION:** The facts and circumstances were not known by the commander until after reenlistment. If the commander has sufficient reason to initiate the demotion action, consider the entire military record in deciding whether demotion is appropriate.

1.3. When appropriate, airmen should be given an opportunity to overcome their deficiencies before demotion action is initiated. Commanders should maintain supporting documentation of all rehabilitation and probationary actions. Suspended demotions are not authorized under this instruction. Once demoted, that action reflects the member's appropriate grade and may not be suspended conditioned on future conduct.

**2. Who Can Demote.** The unit commander may recommend the demotion of an enlisted ANG member under his command.

2.1. The authority to demote enlisted ANG members as Reserves of the Air Force is vested in The Adjutant General (TAG) of the State according to the policies and procedures stated herein. The TAG will exercise demotion authority for enlisted members serving in the ranks of Master Sergeant (MSgt), Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt), and Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) and may delegate this authority to the Assistant Adjutant General for Air. Demotion authority for enlisted ANG members serving in the ranks of Technical Sergeant (TSgt) and below may be further delegated to the Wing/Group/Base commander or the commander of a geographically separated unit, and may not be further delegated.

2.2. The authority to demote enlisted members serving on extended active duty (Title 10 United States Code (USC) 12310) with the National Guard Bureau will be the Director, Air National Guard, with the concurrence of the appropriate State TAG.

2.3. An ANG enlisted member reduced in grade by court martial or non-judicial punishment under the State Military Code, is demoted to the same grade as a Reserve of the Air Force in the Air National Guard of the United States (ANGUS).

2.4. Other than demotion under paragraphs 3.1., 3.2., 3.2.4., and 3.4., to authorize demotion of an enlisted ANG member, the demotion authority must be convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that such action is warranted. The demotion authority may consider all matters in the file which, in their judgment, have probative value and need not be influenced by the possibility that some of those matters may not be admissible in a judicial proceeding.

### ***Section B—Reasons for Demotion***

## **3. Specific Authorities**

### **3.1. Failure to Complete Training:**

3.1.1. Promotions under ANGI 36-2502, *Promotion of Airmen, Air National Guard*, paragraph 2.4.1. Enlisted ANG members attending the Flight Screening Program (FSP), the ANG Academy of Military Science (AMS), or the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Course (AFROTC), who fail to complete such training for any reason will be demoted to the last grade satisfactorily held.

3.1.2. Airmen promoted under paragraphs 2.5. through 2.5.3., ANGI 36-2502, must qualify for the new Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) within the time limits specified by the commander or be demoted to the last grade satisfactorily held.

3.1.3. Airmen promoted to grade E-3 while on initial active duty for training (IADT) must qualify for the AFSC within the time limits specified or be demoted to the last grade satisfactorily held.

### **3.2. Failure to Attain Grade/Skill Relationship:**

3.2.1. Demote an airman who fails to qualify, within the time limits specified by the commander, for the award of the AFSC that corresponds to the grade in which enlisted. Demote the airmen to the highest grade that corresponds to the skill level awarded at the time of enlistment.

3.2.2. Reclassification to a lower skill level. Demote airmen to the highest possible grade allowed for the skills they have if, under AFI 36-2101, *Classifying Military Personnel (Officers and Air-*

men), Chapter 4, their Air Force Specialty is downgraded for substandard performance. As the effective date of demotion, use the date on which their skill level was downgraded.

3.3. Unsatisfactory Participation. (**NOTE:** For demotion purposes only, unsatisfactory participation is defined as having six or more unexcused absences from scheduled unit training assembly [UTA] periods [4 hours per UTA period] in any continuous 12-month period.) After six unexcused absences, the commander may send the airman a certified memorandum (see [Attachment 2](#)), return receipt requested, stressing the seriousness of the situation and advising that demotion action is being initiated. The demotion will be effected as soon as practicable after the airman has been given the opportunity to exercise his or her rights as defined in the memorandum advising of the intent to demote. After the ninth unexcused absence, the commander may request the adjutant general consider the involuntary separation of the member from the ANG of that state with concurrent discharge as a Reserve of the Air Force, in accordance with (IAW) AFI 36-3209, *Separation Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members*. Pending demotion actions will be completed before the separation of the airman.

3.4. Voluntary Change of Assignment. A voluntary change of assignment to a unit manning document (UMD) position which has a lower grade authorization than that currently held by the airman will result in demotion to the lower UMD grade. Demotions IAW this paragraph are affected by the publication of demotion orders by appropriate authority. The procedures prescribed in paragraphs [9](#). and [10](#). are not applicable. Orders effecting voluntary demotions will contain the phrase “without prejudice.”

3.4.1. Acceptance of a military duty tour against a Support Personnel Manning Document (SPMD) position with a lower grade authorization than that currently held by the member will require demotion to the maximum grade authorized by the SPMD position. This also applies to airmen promoted under the provisions of the Deserving Airman Program.

3.4.2. ANGI 36-2101, *Assignments Within the Air National Guard*, restricts full-time personnel to a maximum four-year tour as a first sergeant. They must then be reassigned to a military position which is compatible with their SPMD assignment. When such a reassignment, (either prior to or at the completion of the four-year maximum tour) results in a demotion, that demotion will be considered voluntary. The demotion order will cite this paragraph as the authority for the demotion. If such reassignment is based on substandard performance, demotion would then be effected under the appropriate paragraph of this instruction.

3.4.3. Demotion to a lower grade resulting from a voluntary change of assignment. An airman must acknowledge in writing that the lower military grade (state specific grade) is accepted. The demotion will not preclude subsequent promotion under ANGI 36-2502.

3.5. Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Priority Placement Program Position Declination. IAW ANGI 36-101, *The Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Program*, an overgrade full-time military duty member who declines a position offered under the priority placement program must be reduced in grade to that authorized by his or her SPMD position. Orders effecting this reduction will contain the statement “without prejudice.” Date of Rank (DOR) will be computed IAW paragraph [7](#)., this instruction.

3.6. Expiration of ANGI 36-2101. When an authorized period of overgrade assignment expires and no other assignment option is feasible, the airman must be reduced in grade to the maximum authorized by ANGI 36-2101, or the UMD position to which assigned. Orders effecting this reduction will contain the statement “without prejudice”. DOR will be computed IAW paragraph [7](#)., this instruction.

3.7. Failure to Fulfill Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Responsibilities. An airman may be demoted if he or she fails to fulfill NCO responsibilities prescribed in AFI 36-2618, *The Enlisted Force Structure*.

3.8. Failure to Attain and Maintain Weight/Body Fat Measurement (BFM) Standards. An airman may be demoted after entry into the Weight and Body Fact Management Program (WBFMP) if he or she fails to attain or maintain Air Force Body Fat Standards after three unsatisfactory progress periods as prescribed in ANGI 40-502, *The Weight and Body Fat Management Program*. After an airman has been administratively demoted in grade, and is still failing to make satisfactory progress the unit commander must make a recommendation to the wing commander to retain or initiate separation action of a member on their fourth and subsequent unsatisfactory progress in the WBFMP.

### Section C—Demotion Process

#### 4. Notifying Airman of Impending Action. (See [Table 1](#).)

**Table 1. Notification and Date of Rank Adjustment Requirements**

<b>R U L E</b>	If the demotion is to be effected under paragraph	The airman's commander must formally advise the airman of the recommendation to demote IAW paragraph 4., this instruction.	and if affected, the airman's DOR is the date of the order	and if affected, the airman's DOR is adjusted IAW paragraph 7.2. this instruction.
1.	<a href="#">3.1.</a>	No		X
2.	<a href="#">3.2.</a>	No		X
3.	<a href="#">3.3.</a>	Yes	X	
4.	<a href="#">3.4.</a>	Requirement may vary with State Code	X	
5.	<a href="#">3.5.</a>	No	X	
6.	<a href="#">3.6.</a>	No		X
7.	<a href="#">3.7.</a>	Yes	X	
8.	<a href="#">3.8.</a>	Yes	X	

4.1. After consulting with the servicing Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) the immediate commander will inform the airman in writing to the airman's last known address, either by personal delivery (with written receipt acknowledged) or by certified mail (return receipt requested), of the intent to recommend demotion, or to demote if the unit commander is also the demotion authority. If the airman does not acknowledge receipt within the specified time or if the memorandum is returned as undeliverable, the unit commander may proceed to process the demotion action. The memorandum will contain (see [Attachment 2](#) and [Attachment 3](#)) the following information:

- 4.1.1. Specific reasons for the proposed action and applicable paragraphs of this instruction.
- 4.1.2. A complete summary of the supporting facts.

4.1.3. Instructions that the airman will acknowledge (in writing) the notification memorandum within five calendar days' of receipt by certified mail or immediately upon receipt if personally delivered by the commander or his designated representative. (See [Attachment 4](#).)

4.1.4. Instructions that the airman will either concur or nonconcur, in writing, with the proposed action no later than the end-of-day roll call following the second UTA (4-hour period) after acknowledgment of the memorandum.

4.1.5. An explanation that the airman may consult with counsel before electing to concur or non-concur with a recommendation for demotion. Counsel will be provided by the SJA, appointed by the airman's immediate commander, and identified by name in the initial notification memorandum. Counsel may also assist in preparing a written response by the individual if the member so elects. Expenses incurred in connection with the appearance or assistance of civilian counsel on behalf of the airman are the responsibility of the airman and will not be paid by the military. Airmen being considered for demotion will be offered representation by counsel who is either:

4.1.5.1. A military lawyer (within the meaning of article 27(b)(1) of the UCMJ or designated Judge Advocate (JA) under Title 10 USC 8067(g), different from the military counsel advising the commander, if available; or

4.1.5.2. If a military lawyer is not available, a disinterested officer from the unit other than the airman's unit. This officer must, in the commander's judgment, possess the knowledge and judgment necessary to provide comprehensive and accurate advice to the airman on the procedures and alternate courses of action available. If possible, the officer should be well versed in personnel matters.

4.2. If the airman non-concurs with the proposed demotion action then he must decide whether or not to submit documentation on his or her behalf. If the decision is to submit documentation, it must be received within 20 calendar days after the date the airman responds indicating his or her decision to non-concur with the demotion action.

4.3. An explanation that the airman may request a personal interview with the immediate commander. If the airman chooses to make an oral presentation, counsel may be present during the interview.

4.4. Explanation that a lack of response will be construed as concurrence by the individual. Failure to respond will be construed as a waiver to both the right to appear before the airman's immediate commander and representation by counsel.

4.5. An explanation that the airman, if eligible, may request resignation or retirement IAW AFI 36-3209, in lieu of demotion at any time before publication of demotion orders. Obligor or airmen who have incurred service commitments are not eligible to resign or retire.

## **5. Action by the Immediate Commander After Receipt of Airman's Reply or if the Airman Fails to Respond to the Notification of Intent to Demote. (See [Table 2](#).)**

**Table 2. Commander's Action Upon Receipt of Airman's Reply**

<b>R U L E</b>	If commander determines airman should	and commander is the demotion authority	then commander
1.	not be demoted	yes	notifies the airman in writing of decision, thus closing the case.
2.		no	indorses case through channels to the demotion authority.
3.	be demoted	yes	acts IAW paragraph 5.
4.		no	indorses correspondence through channels to the demotion authority recommending lower grade that commander believes appropriate for the airman's skill and abilities.

5.1. If the airman concurs with the demotion action or fails to respond to the notification of intent to demote, and if the immediate commander is the demotion authority, the commander will obtain a legal review of the case file from the servicing SJA.

5.1.1. If it is determined that the case file is legally sufficient for demotion the immediate commander will proceed with the demotion action.

5.1.2. If the immediate commander is not the demotion authority, forward the package and demotion recommendation through channels to the appropriate demotion authority.

5.1.3. If the airman non-concurs with the demotion action and submits matters on his or her behalf, or requests a personal interview, or both, the immediate commander will consider all matters presented by the airman.

5.2. An immediate commander who is also the demotion authority will consider each and all of the matters presented and then:

5.2.1. Terminate the demotion action; or

5.2.2. Request SJA review for legal sufficiency prior to effecting the demotion. If the SJA determines there is legal sufficiency to support a finding for demotion, the immediate commander may proceed with the demotion action. If the case lacks legal sufficiency, it will be terminated and the airman advised in writing by certified mail or by personal delivery.

5.3. An immediate commander who is not the demotion authority will consider each and all of the matters presented and then:

5.3.1. Terminate the demotion action, or

5.3.2. Prepare a written summary of that personal interview (if any), include that summary in the case file, and forward the case file to the demotion authority with an appropriate recommendation. The immediate commander will immediately notify the airman in writing by certified mail or by personal delivery of the decision to continue processing the demotion action or to terminate it.

#### **6. Action by the Demotion Authority Who is Not the Airman's Immediate Commander:**

6.1. The demotion authority will obtain a legal review from the servicing SJA before rendering a final decision on the immediate commander's demotion recommendation.

6.2. The demotion authority will notify the airman's servicing Military Personnel Flight (MPF) in writing of the decision to concur or non-concur with the immediate commander's demotion recommendation. The MPF will then notify the airman of the decision by indorsement through the airman's immediate commander.

#### **7. Determining Date of Rank (DOR):**

7.1. The DOR will be the effective date of the demotion order for airmen demoted under the provisions of paragraph 3.2.3., 3.2.4., and [3.3.](#)

7.2. The DOR for airmen demoted under provisions of paragraph [3.1.](#), [3.2.](#), [3.4.](#), [3.5.](#), [3.6.](#), [3.7.](#), and [3.8.](#) will be the DOR of the former grade to which the airman is reduced (adjusted by any breaks in service). If demotion is to a grade not previously held by the airman, the DOR will be the date the member last began active service (could be initial entry on IADT).

#### **8. Announcing and Revoking Demotions:**

8.1. Demotions are announced in special orders published by the appropriate headquarters in accordance with, ANGI 33-101, *Air National Guard Administrative Orders*. The effective date for the demotion is the date specified by the demotion authority.

8.2. Demotion orders may be revoked only with the approval of the State Adjutant General when it has been determined that the order was published without the proper authority. Revocation orders are published in accordance with ANGI 33-101.

8.3. Instructions regarding voluntary demotions are found in paragraph [3.4.](#)

**9. Notifying the Airman of an Approved Demotion Action.** The demotion authority (who is not the airman's immediate commander) will notify the airman's immediate commander in writing through the MPF of the decision to effect the demotion. The airman's commander will then notify the airman in writing by certified mail or personal delivery of the decision. A copy of the demotion order will be included with the notification. If the immediate commander is not available, the next higher commander in the chain of command (up to and including the demotion authority) will notify the airman.

**10. Grades to Which Airman May be Reduced.** (See [Table 3.](#)) An airman reduced to the grade of E-4 is reduced to the rank of Senior Airman.



**Table 3. Grades to Which Airmen May be Demoted**

<b>R U L E</b>	If airman is	then demotion will be to a grade no lower than
1.	E-4 or higher	E-2 (See Note)
2.	E-3	E-1

**NOTE:** A reduction of three or more grades should be used only in an extraordinary unique case when there appears to be no reasonable hope that the airman will again exhibit the proficiency, leadership, or fitness previously possessed.

DANIEL JAMES III, Lieutenant General, USAF  
Director, Air National Guard



## Attachment 1

### GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### *References*

AFPD 36-25, Military Promotion and Demotion  
 AFI 36-2101, Classifying Military Personnel (Officer and Airmen)  
 AFI 36-3203, Service Retirements  
 AFI 36-3209, Separation Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members  
 ANGI 36-101, The Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Program  
 ANGI 36-2502, Promotion of Airmen, Air National Guard  
 ANGI 36-2101, Assignments Within the Air National Guard  
 ANGI 33-101, Air National Guard Administrative Orders  
 ANGI 40-502, The Weight and Body Fat Management Program  
 Title 10 United State Code  
 Title 32 United State Code  
 Title 44 United State Code  
 Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 27(b)(1)

#### *Abbreviations or Acronyms*

**AFROTC**—Air Force Officer Training Course  
**AFS**—Air Force Specialty  
**AFSC**—Air Force Specialty Code  
**AMS**—Academy of Military Science  
**ANG**—Air National Guard  
**ANGUS**—Air National Guard of the United States  
**BFM**—Body Fat Measurement  
**CC**—Commander  
**CMSgt**—Chief Master Sergeant (E-9)  
**DOR**—Date of Rank  
**IADT**—Initial Active Duty for Training  
**IAW**—In Accordance With  
**JA**—Judge Advocate  
**MPF**—Military Personnel Flight

**MSgt**—Master Sergeant (E-7)

**NCO**—Noncommissioned Officer

**SJA**—Staff Judge Advocate

**SMSG-t** - Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)

**SPMD**—Support Personnel Manning Document

**TAG**—The Adjutant General

**TSgt**—Technical Sergeant (E-6)

**UCMJ**—Uniformed Code of Military Justice

**UMD**—Unit Manning Document

**USC**—United States Code

**UTA**—Unit Training Assembly

**Attachment 2**

**SAMPLE NOTIFICATION MEMORANDUM**

**A2.1.** This attachment applies to the following reasons for demotion, Paragraphs **3.1.**, **3.2.**, **3.4.**, **3.5.**, **3.6.**, and **3.7.**

(Appropriate Letterhead)

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR (Individual Concerned)

FROM: CC/(Unit Designation)

Unit Address

SUBJECT: Notification of Intention to Demote

1. You are hereby advised that under the provisions of ANGI 36-2503, *Administrative Demotion of Airmen*, paragraph \_\_\_\_, I intend to recommend to the Commander (Organization and Station of demoting authority) that you be demoted to the grade of \_\_\_\_ (or) I intend to demote you to the grade of \_\_\_\_.

2. The specific reason for this proposed action follows.

3. Documents that support this action are available for your review should you desire.

4. I direct that upon receipt of this memorandum you acknowledge such receipt on the attached prepared indorsement within five calendar days. I will also interpret any failure to meet this suspense date as concurrence with my demotion recommendation. You must also decide whether you concur or nonconcur with the proposed demotion. When you have made your decision, initial the appropriate paragraph on the enclosed indorsement accordingly. You may defer making a decision to concur or nonconcur until the next scheduled UTA on \_\_\_\_\_ when you may consult with legal counsel as is your right. However, if you seek counsel, your decision to concur or nonconcur must be received by me no later than the end-of-day roll call following the second UTA (4 hour period) on \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Upon receipt of your acknowledgment or expiration of your suspense to respond this demotion action will continue until complete. Time frame for completion is within 30 calendar days from receipt or suspense expiration date.

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Unit Commander Signature Block

Attachments:

1. Receipt Indorsement
2. Privacy Act Statement

**Attachment 3****SAMPLE NOTIFICATION MEMORANDUM**

**A3.1.** This attachment applies to the following reasons for demotion paragraphs 3.2.3., 3.2.4., and **3.3.** only.

(Appropriate Letterhead)

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR (Individual Concerned)

FROM: CC/(Unit Designation)

Unit Address

SUBJECT: Notification of Intention to Demote

1. You are hereby advised that under the provisions of ANGI 36-2503, *Administrative Demotion of Airmen*, paragraph \_\_\_\_, I intend to recommend to the Commander (Organization and Station of demoting authority) that you be demoted to the grade of \_\_\_\_ (or) I intend to demote you to the grade of \_\_\_\_.
2. The specific reason for this proposed action follows:
3. Documents that support this action are available for your review should you desire.
4. I direct that upon receipt of this memorandum you acknowledge such receipt on the attached prepared indorsement within five calendar days. I will also interpret any failure to meet this suspense date as concurrence with my demotion recommendation. You must also decide whether you concur or nonconcur with the proposed demotion. When you have made your decision, initial the appropriate paragraph on the enclosed indorsement accordingly. You may defer making a decision to concur or nonconcur until the next scheduled UTA on \_\_\_\_\_ when you may consult with legal counsel as is your right. However, if you seek counsel, your decision to concur or nonconcur must be received by me no later than the end-of-day roll call following the second UTA (4 hour period) on \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If you concur with the proposed demotion, you will be notified in writing of the demotion authority's decision. If there is no response from you, I am authorized to process your case as if you had concurred. If you nonconcur with the proposed demotion, you may present statements in your own behalf. Written statements to support your position will be submitted within 20 calendar days after you respond indicating

your decision. If you desire to present oral statements, your request to do so will accompany the nonoccurrence, and a personal interview with me will be scheduled. You may seek military or civilian legal counsel (civilian counsel will be at your own expense) in preparing your oral or written presentation, and counsel may be present during the personal interview. If travel to the personal interview is required, all costs of your civilian counsel will be at your own expense.

6. (Use one of the following if applicable.) (You are eligible to resign under the provisions of AFI 36-3209, *Separation Procedures of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members*, in lieu of demotion action and may do so at any time before publication of a demotion order.) Or (You are eligible to retire under the provisions of AFI 36-3203, *Service Retirements*, in lieu of demotion action and may do so at any time before the publication of a demotion order.)

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Unit Commander Signature Block

Attachments:

1. Receipt Indorsement
2. Privacy Act Statement

**Attachment 4****INDORSEMENT AND PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT****A4.1. Sample Indorsement of Airman's Reply.**

1st Ind,

(Individual concerned)

MEMORANDUM FOR CC/(Unit Designation)

1. The paragraph I have initialed below signifies my intent in this matter.
2. Receipt acknowledged; I concur with the proposed demotion action.
3. Receipt acknowledged. I intend to exercise my right to legal counsel at the next scheduled UTA on \_\_\_\_\_. My decision to concur/nonconcur with this demotion action will then be delivered to your office no later than the end-of-day roll call on Saturday. If I decide to nonconcur with the demotion action, in my written response I will advise you whether or not I will provide documentation on my behalf. I further understand that such documentation must be submitted to you within 20 days after the next UTA or it will not be considered. If I fail to return this indorsement within five calendar days, you may interpret such failure to respond as concurrence with the demotion action.

---

Airman's Signature Block

**A4.2. Privacy Act Statement.**

**AUTHORITY:** 10 United States Code (USC) 8012, Privacy Act Statement, and 44 USC 3010.

**PRINCIPLE PURPOSE:** To provide you the opportunity to submit information on your behalf or show cause why your demotion is inappropriate.

**ROUTINE USE:** Information submitted by you will become part of the case file and be used by the demotion authority in the resolution of your case. This information will also be provided to your counselor or interview officer, as appropriate, and reviewed by authorized personnel who have a need to know for official use. A case file of the demotion action (if demotion is approved) will be filed in your Master Personnel Records Group.

**DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY:** Failure to provide information precludes the demotion authority from considering the same on your behalf.